

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~signal format stored on a~~ computer readable medium that can be accessed by a computer system as a file structure, comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises:

a Label having a predetermined number of bytes, and including at least one byte identifying the Item;

a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item;

one or more Element data blocks; and

an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item,

wherein the system Item includes metadata relating to one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package,

and the computer system accesses the file structure including the metadata in the System Item to facilitate accessing the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A signal format for use in a system which transfers data to ~~and/or from~~ an SDTI system or from the SDTI system, the signal format comprising a Serial Digital Transport interface (SDTI) Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises:

a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item;

one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item;

each Item being modified in that a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and identifying the Item replaces the Start Code of the Item and the End Code of the Item is removed and the data of the System Item includes metadata relating to ~~the or~~ each of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the Content Package,

wherein the SDTI system accesses the metadata in the System Item to facilitate accessing the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Item.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium ~~A signal format~~ according to claim 1, wherein the Label has a fixed number of bytes having preassigned values and at least one byte of variable value for identifying an item.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[A]]~~ signal format according to claim 2 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein each Element data block comprises:

at least one word indicating the number of words in the Element, and if the number of words in the Element is greater than zero, at least one word defining the type of element, and at least one word indicating the number of the Element, and the data of the Element.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] signal format according to claim 2 [[6]], wherein said metadata includes link metadata which links metadata relating to an Element to the Element to which it relates.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] signal format according to claim 2, wherein the Label has a predetermined fixed format except for said byte identifying the Item.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A file structure for storage in a computer system, the file comprising:

a concatenation of one or more SDTI Content Packages,
the Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System and one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprising a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item; one or more element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item; each Item being modified in that a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and identifying the Item replaces the Start Code of the Item and the End Code of the Item is removed, and the data of the System Item includes metadata relating to ~~the or~~ each of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the Content Package,

wherein the computer system accesses the file structure including the metadata in the System Item to facilitate accessing the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Item.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] file according to claim 9, comprising a concatenation of a plurality of Content Packages, each Content Package including one video frame.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] file according to claim 10, wherein the frames are compressed video frames.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method of producing a signal, comprising:
forming a Content Package by concatenating at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items being formed by concatenating:

- a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and including at least one byte identifying the Item;
- a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item;
- one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item, and
- providing within the system item metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a signal comprising the steps of:

- receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprising a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the item, and an end code;
- removing the start and end codes identifying the Item type;

inserting a Label in place of the start code, the label having a predetermined number of bytes, at least one byte identifying the Item, and

providing in the System item metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method of forming a signal according to claim 13, wherein the Label has a predetermined fixed format except for said byte identifying the Item.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method of forming a file for storage in a computer system, comprising concatenating one or more Content Packages as defined in claim 12.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method of forming a file for storage in a computer system, comprising concatenating a plurality of Content Packages, each Content Package being formed by the method of claim 13.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 16, wherein each Content Package includes one video frame.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 17 wherein the frames are compressed video frames.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The ~~[[A]]~~ method of transferring video data within a computer network, comprising: forming a file containing the video data by the method of claim 17; and transferring the file.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for forming a content package, comprising:

an input for receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises:

a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, and indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item, and an end code; and

a format converter for removing the start and end codes; and for inserting a Label in place of the start code, the Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, wherein the System item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 20, further comprising a signal source for producing the SDTI signal.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 21, further comprising a buffer for storing the SDTI signal and providing it to said removing and inserting means.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 22, further comprising a computer system having a storage for storing files, said format converter being an interface between said signal source for producing the SDTI signal and the computer system.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 23, wherein the computer system comprises a network of file stores linked by a file transfer system.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a signal comprising the steps of:

receiving an signal comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, one or more Element data blocks, and having an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item;

removing the Label of each Item; inserting a start code and Item type word in place of the Label; and

inserting an end code to thereby produce an SDTI signal, wherein the System Item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A format converter comprising:

an input for receiving an SDTI signal comprising an SDTI Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprises a start code, a word count indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, one or more Element data blocks, an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the item, and an end code; and

means for removing the start and end codes; and the Item type word and for inserting a Label in place of the start code, the Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, wherein the System Item includes metadata relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] format converter according to claim 26, wherein said means comprises a multiplexer having first and second inputs and an output, a first store for storing the Label coupled to the first input, a second store for storing the SDTI signal, and

a controller for reading the Label out of the first store for supply to the first input followed by reading the word count and the data out of the second store for supply to the second input.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A format converter comprising:

an input for receiving a signal comprising a Content Package having at least a System Item and one or more of a Picture Item, an Audio Item and an Auxiliary Item, the System, and one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items each comprising a Label having a predetermined number of bytes and at least one byte identifying the Item, a word count

indicating the number of bytes of data of the Item, one or more Element data blocks, and an Item header, preceding the element data block, indicating the number of element data blocks in the Item,

means for removing the Label of each Item, and for inserting a start code and Item type word in place of the Label, and for inserting an end code, to thereby produce an SDTI signal, and

means for providing metadata within the System Item relating to the one or more of the Picture, Audio and Auxiliary Items in the content package.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] format converter according to claim 28, wherein said means comprises a multiplexer having first second and third inputs and an output, a first store for storing the start code coupled to the first input, a second store for storing an Item and coupled to the second input and a third store for storing the end code and coupled to the third input, and a controller for reading the start code out of the first store for supply to the first input, followed by reading the Item type word, the word count and the data out of the second store for supply to the second input and followed by reading the end code out of the third store for supply to the third input, to thereby produce the SDTI signal.